



# MULLINS MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF  
MULLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
4 NORTH MENDENHALL ROAD  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38117-2698  
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[WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG](http://WWW.MULLINSUMC.ORG)

“A CHURCH ALIVE AND SERVING CHRIST”  
SINCE 1845

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Wednesday, May 12, 2010

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Sunday Morning Worship Services:  
8:45 in Mullins' Chapel – 10:50 in Mullins' Sanctuary



Mullins Pulpit – May 16, 2010

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53  
Sermon: “Theophilus Ascending”



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

We anticipate what happens when the rains stop and the heat rises. We will see the grass and weeds shoot up, vines overtake fences, and flowers bloom where we did not know they even were. Growth is everywhere.

Do we want growth in the church? Normally we answer, “Well, yes, certainly.” That is a reflex answer, though. Growth, either way, changes a church's self-perception, its behavior and much more. Since most people (including pastors!) are not fond of change, the question, “Do we want growth in the church?” deserves more than a reflexive answer.

Scripture may provide guidance for us. With Ascension Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, Jesus is well and truly gone from earth. Jesus leaves us with his instructions, comforting words, and power. His instructions may seem rather daunting: Go to all nations and make disciples; declare that in his name repentance, bringing forgiveness of sins, is to be proclaimed to all nations; feed his sheep and tend his lambs; bear witness to him beginning in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Those are some powerful instructions!

His comforting words are clear from John's gospel; God the Son asks God the Father to give us God the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and advocate. What powerful comfort to know that God is with us in every way imaginable. He gives his power to us, his power to

forgive, to bind up evil, to reach any and all people, to be, actually be, his body for the world and in the world. To be the body of Christ means that we have unimaginable power to go along with unimaginable responsibility. The responsibility is to grow.

So, we are back to the beginning. Do we want growth in the church? Now we can answer yes with more certainty. What we want, growth, seems to be what God wants and what other church members will want. We do not come to this position through a mere vote, but through honest discernment of what is God's will for us, as revealed through the ministry of our Lord Christ.

Now, I think, is a good time to pause and pray about this desire. In our prayer time, I encourage you to ask God what growth might look like for us here at Mullins UMC. Ask God to show you **what** you might do, alone or with others to help that growth take place. Invite God to show you **how** to do what God would have you do. Then ask God again to show you what a changed Mullins UMC might look like. Take your time. Talk about this with friends.

I hope that you will let me know what you experience with this process. Growth will happen. The questions we must face are: Which direction will the growth go? What must we do for positive growth? How to we help direct growth rather than have it run out of control? I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Grace for the journey,

*Brad*

## OUR PRAYERS

As members of the body of Christ, we are always in prayer for one another. At this time our thoughts and prayers go out especially for:

**Margaret Callihan** at Appling Woods Skilled Care, Room 307

**Tom Curry** and **Mary Lee Curry** at home

**John Griffin** at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1103

**Carol Ann Moreland** at home

**Kent Stratton** in Belgium

**Lynne Sweatt** at Germantown Village Rehab, Room 1129

**Frances Vawter** at home

## HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given to:

### BUDGET

In memory of **June Phillips** by George and Jean Sibley, Betty and Carolyn John, Janet S. Wright, Norm and Barbara Kercher, Carol Ann Moreland, Jane McGoldrick, John and Harriet Montgomery, Robert and Shirley Morgan, and Ellen L. Rainey

In memory of **Brooxie Newcomb** by Jane McGoldrick

### MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Peg Jackson** by Jane Cannon and Mary Jane Melton

### ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY

In memory of **June Phillips** by Aaron Foster

## VBS UPDATE:

The volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Hall of the Apostles and online under Children's Ministries (<http://mullinsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/VBS-REGISTRATION-FORM-2010.pdf>). We need people of all ages to sign-up to help with the many opportunities available.

Also, we are in need of the following items:

- large baskets
- large ceramic planters or urns
- palm tree house plants
- large area rugs (won't need until the week of VBS)
- monetary donations to cover decorating expenses
- PRAYER



VBS will be held June 14-17, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a Family Night on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Ages for VBS participants are 4 (by June 1) through 11.

Contact Lisa Weaver for more information. It's going to be a great week!!!

## SUMMER STAGE THEATRE CAMP

Summer Stage is about to gear up again. This is arguably the best theater arts camp for children between the ages of 8-13 in the Greater Memphis area. Kids will learn music, choreography, and set design. They will play games, have devotions, and do arts and crafts. And on Friday, July 30, they will put on a play that the whole church can enjoy!

The camp will run from June 1 through August 6, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 3:00. Call 681-9217 for more information.

## THE FINCHERS GOSPEL SINGERS

will be in concert on Sunday, June 13, 2010, at 5 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4459 Willow Road, Memphis, Tennessee. Aldersgate UMC invites us to join them for an evening of great, heart-warming music!

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING—CROSSROADS HOSPICE OF TENNESSEE

Just an hour or two each week can help ease the loneliness, fear, and isolation of a person with a terminal illness. If you can listen to life stories, hold a hand, read, sing, bake cookies, play a musical instrument,



or just want to help, there's someone who needs your friendship. Our next training class is Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call our Volunteer Coordinators, Emily or Sandy, to sign up, 381-9292. Individual training is also available upon request.

## PENTECOST APPROACHES (MAY 23)

Mullins United Methodist Church has a fine tradition of celebrating Pentecost—the birthday of the church—in very special ways. First, try to remember to wear RED to church that day. Red reminds us of what seemed to be tongues of fire, igniting the spirit in the early church (see Acts 2:1-13).

The second thing Mullins traditionally does is invite friends to church on Pentecost. The worship services that day will reflect the energy and enthusiasm experienced by Jesus’ disciples when they first experienced God’s Holy Spirit descending upon them. The music will be lively (the choir is going to sing in **Russian!**), and the preaching will be inspired. As part of our Pentecost celebration, we will have a “Baptism Renewal” at the 10:50 service.

We don’t want you, or your friends, to miss worshiping at Mullins on Pentecost!

## FIFTH SUNDAY (MAY 30)

A new tradition at Mullins is having all the Sunday school classes meet together in the Fellowship Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of months that have five Sundays. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday happens to fall on Trinity Sunday! In addition to singing, we will be learning a circle dance. And the big event of our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gathering is a game of “Mullins Trivia Red Rover.” If you know a lot about our church, you will want to attend to share your knowledge. If you don’t know a lot about our church, you will want to attend and learn about Mullins’ history, geography (i.e., “Where is the new handicapped accessible bathroom?”), and general knowledge.

## HYMNFEST

During both worship services on May 30, we will sing the first verses of the congregation’s favorite hymns. Do you have a favorite hymn you want sung? Contact the church office with your suggestions **no later than Sunday, May 23**, or fill in the form below and put it in the offering plate. Choose your favorites from the following books: *The United Methodist Hymnal* (“UMH”), *The Cokesbury Hymnal* (“CH”), or *The Faith We Sing* (“FWS”).



**Warning:** Somebody could have submitted something like *I Want a Principle Within* or *Weary of All Trumpeting*, you know, songs nobody actually knows. So you’d better get your songs submitted or you could be stuck singing difficult hymns.

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Book: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR MAY 16:

**Liturgist:** Lisa Weaver

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Scott Campbell (Head Usher),  
Kathryn Black, Tina Campbell,  
Carol Ann Moreland, Jackie  
and Pete Westergaard

**Children’s Message:** Terrye Mastin

**Children’s Church:** Angie Smith

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

are being placed to the glory of God in memory of Judge William H. Williams in remembrance of his birthday by Betty Williams.

## THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

invites you to join us on Sunday mornings in the Narthex for coffee and conversation following the 10:50 worship service.



## THE MENU FOR MAY 19:

Brisket  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Salad  
Bread  
Dessert

Adults \$5, Children 12 and under \$3,  
Family Max \$20

Dinner is held on Wednesday nights at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a brief prayer service and an interesting program. Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy the fellowship. Your first dinner is complimentary!

If you’re not already on the list, please call the church office to let us know you’re coming so we’ll be sure to have plenty of food.

## ASBURY DISTRICT OFFICE IS RELOCATING!

On May 20 the Asbury District Office will relocate to space in Highland Heights United Methodist Church. Since they have shared office space with McKendree District for the past several years, they have also shared furnishings. They need new office furniture, decorations, and equipment. Primary needs are: waiting room furniture (chairs, lamp, coffee table), a conference table and chairs, and shelving units for office supplies. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help purchase these needed items, please send a check payable to the Asbury District, and designate it "for office relocation." Mail checks to: Asbury District Office, 5118 Park Avenue, Suite 610, Memphis, Tennessee 38117. If you have office furnishings to donate, please contact Tammy Carroll at 685-6255.

**The Notre Dame Club of Memphis Presents a Hesburgh Lecture:**

## "WHAT IS THE PLACE FOR RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE?"

**Richard W. Garnett, J.D.**

Dean Garnett says: "As citizens, we are entirely free to participate in public life, in the civic arena, and in politics as whole persons. Nothing in the text, history, or structure of our Constitution requires us to accept disintegration as the "price of admission" to the life of active, engaged citizenship. We need not bracket our faith, or translate our commitments. In our traditions, it is true, we wisely separate the institutions of religion from those of government. But the Church is not, and must not be, an arm or auxiliary of the state. But this is precisely in order to protect religious freedom, including the freedom to construct and live a faithful, integrated, public life."

Join us for a fascinating discussion about everyday life, law, culture and the Constitution, made especially timely by a recent court decision.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Christian Brothers High School Auditorium

5900 Walnut Grove Road

Memphis, TN 38120-2174

Free and Open to the Public

Free Parking in Front of School

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

On May 16, 2010, we will honor our 2010 high school and college graduates at the 10:50 service. Following the service, there will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall for the seniors, their families, and church members. Tables will be set up with gifts and pictures honoring the graduates. Please send Lauren Gam any photos you would like displayed of your graduate.

If you have a son or daughter graduating whose name is not listed below, please contact the church office at 685-8253. We don't want to miss anyone!

### Graduating from High School:

- \*Frank Bradley – White Station High School
- \*Corey Carmichael – White Station High School
- \*Grace Hayden – Central High School
- \*Frankie Jordan – White Station High School
- Kelcey Lewis – Evangelical Christian School
- Chris Mason – White Station High School
- \*Dalton McNeil – White Station High School

### Graduating from College/University:

- Miranda Byrd – University of Memphis (in August)
- Andre Duvall – University of Memphis
- Justin Nelson – University of Memphis
- James Williams – Lambuth University

\*Graduates with Honors

## NEWS FROM UMCOR—RELIEF SUPPLIES: SPRING STORMS WREAK HAVOC ON US SOUTH

After torrential rains and flooding stormed through Tennessee at the start of this month, UMCOR Sager Brown shipped more than 10,000 cleaning buckets to four distribution sites in "The Volunteer State."

The spring storm season already has affected a fistful of states in the US South. Tornadoes in Arkansas and Louisiana and the record-setting rains in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and Georgia have taken lives and wreaked havoc on communities.

Tornadoes tore through Oklahoma on Monday, May 10, and reportedly left five dead and 58 wounded. They also caused damage in Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. Severe weather warnings remained in effect for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11 and 12.

Cleaning buckets and other relief aid remain in short supply. Refer to the bottom right-hand corner of our home page to learn how you can assemble and send cleaning buckets. And please give generously to **US Domestic Disaster Response, Spring Storms, UMCOR Advance #901670.**

**CHURCH STAFF:**

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Bradley W. Gabriel  
[bwgmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:bwgmullins@bellsouth.net)

**Director of Music Ministries:**

Bryan R. Dunn  
[bryan.r.dunn@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.r.dunn@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries:**

Lauren Gam  
[lauren@mullinsumc.org](mailto:lauren@mullinsumc.org)

**Director of Parents Day Out:**

Kimberly Alston  
[kimberly@mullinsumc.org](mailto:kimberly@mullinsumc.org)

**Church Secretary:**

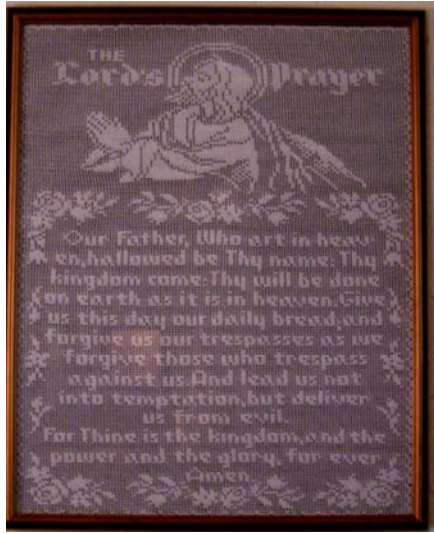
Susan Tutt  
[susmullins@bellsouth.net](mailto:susmullins@bellsouth.net)

**Organist:**

Aaron Foster  
[aaron@mullinsumc.org](mailto:aaron@mullinsumc.org)

**Custodians:**

Geraldine Finley  
David Campbell



**OUR PRESENCE (LAST WEEK):**

Sunday:

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Wednesday:

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Thursday, May 13**

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym

**Friday, May 14**

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym  
1:00 p.m. PDO Graduation—Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Crop Night—Bring your favorite craft and a snack!

**Saturday, May 15**

11:00 a.m. Yoga  
5:00 p.m. “Own Our Own” Dance—Fellowship Hall (private event)

**Sunday, May 16**

8:45 a.m. Worship—Chapel  
9:40 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship—Sanctuary—**Graduation Recognition**  
4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group—Gym  
5:00 p.m. Yoga

**Monday, May 17**

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
6:15 p.m. Woodwinds Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Administrative Council—Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, May 18**

6:30 a.m. Career Support Group—Gym  
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
10:30 a.m. UMW Circle Meeting—Parlor  
6:15 p.m. Core Ball Class—Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Yoga—Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, May 19**

7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Fellowship Hall  
9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym  
**5:00 p.m. Blood Drive**  
5:45 a.m. Fellowship Dinner—Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Children/Youth Programs  
6:15 p.m. Beading Group—Room 209  
6:30 p.m. Program—Patrick Mason: Role of Faith in the Public Square  
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 20**

9:00 a.m. Walking in the Gym

**Friday, May 21**

9:00 a.m. Walking in Gym

**Saturday, May 22**

10:00 a.m. Concord Graduation—Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall  
11:00 a.m. Yoga

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Week of June 14-17**

9:00 a.m. VBS—Egypt: Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace—see page 2

**Summer Stage**

Summer Stage runs from June 1 through August 6—see page 2